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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**
(Docket No. 403120)

In re the Application of:) **Customer No. 27717**
Harold Mattice)
Serial No.: 09/824,621) **Art Unit: 3714**
Filed: April 2, 2001) **Examiner: Corbett B. Coburn**
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR)
CONTROLLING ACCESS TO AREAS OF)
GAMING MACHINES)

TO: MAIL STOP: Appeal Brief - Patent
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

APPELLANT'S REPLY BRIEF

This is the Reply Brief to the Examiner's Answer mailed October 29, 2007.

The Examiner has continued to combine Luciano and Henry in an attempt to show Appellant's invention as claimed. However, the purported combination of Luciano and Henry is improper because such combination would not have been obvious, Luciano lacks almost all the claimed structure and steps, and, further, such combination is contrary to the teachings of the Henry patent.

With respect to Luciano, as pointed out on the bottom of page 4 of the Examiner's Answer, the Examiner recognizes that "Luciano fails to teach the details of the operation of electronic locks." This is an understatement. Luciano discloses a type of prior art system that Appellant's invention is intended to improve upon. Luciano discloses a mechanical key locking system in which a number of rotary key switches are individually keyed to control access to specific areas of a game controller. Luciano